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Identical letters dated 3 May 2016 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I should like to inform you of the heinous terrorist attack that occurred today in Aleppo.

Despite ongoing international and regional efforts to solidify the cessation of hostilities agreement and calm the situation in Aleppo, armed terrorist groups, acting on orders from their planners in Turkey and Saudi Arabia, carried out a large-scale attack from several directions against the steadfast city of Aleppo. The Syrian Arab Army responded to the terrorists and prevented them from executing their plan to take control of several of the city's neighbourhoods.

During the attack, the terrorist fired heavy calibre rockets at Dubayt Maternity Hospital, which was targeted in order to continue terrorizing the steadfast inhabitants of Aleppo and to spread panic among them. The rocket attack destroyed the hospital and killed a large number of civilians, including women and children. The terrorists also indiscriminately fired dozens of rockets at all neighbourhoods of Aleppo, killing and injuring scores of persons, and destroying homes. The actions of the terrorist groups and their Saudi Arabian and Turkish allies are a crime against humanity, and it is the duty of the United Nations and the international community to put an end to those actions and hold the perpetrators accountable.

The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic points out that, by carrying out this mad attack against Aleppo, the terrorist groups, which receive support from abroad, have violated the de-escalation measures that were agreed to yesterday, 2 May 2016, in flagrant disregard of all the efforts that have been made to stop the killing of innocent civilians and to stop them from being used as pawns.

The Government reiterates that the armed terrorist groups would not be able to continue committing crimes against humanity if the Security Council were to fulfil its responsibility, as stipulated in the Charter, and condemn those regimes and States that sponsor and support terrorism.

The Syrian Arab Republic once again calls on the Security Council and Secretary-General to condemn these terrorist crimes. It also calls on the Security Council to take measures to compel those regimes and States that sponsor terrorism

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to cease providing any form of support to armed terrorist groups, in implementation of the Council's resolutions on countering terrorism and the financing of terrorism.

I should be grateful if the present letter could be issued as a document of the Security Council

(*Signed*) Mounzer **Mounzer**
Minister Counsellor
Chargé d'affaires a.i.